(xiii) To computerise directory enquriy services in all the SSAs.

(xiv) To give priority for telecom facility in: Sensitive border areas Tribal and Hilly areas and Industrial Growth centres.

Replacement of out-dated Telephone instruments

4609. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to sanction telephone on demand;

(b) if so, by which year it is possible to every part of the country;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to replace all the old and out-dated telephone instruments; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The 9th Five Year Plan of the Department of Telecommunication envisage to provide telephone on demand by 31.3.2002' in every part of the country with the private sector complementing the efforts of the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government propose to replace all the old and life expired telephone insturments in a phased manner progressively. Electronic Push Button Telephone Instruments are allotted every year for replacement of life expired telephone instruments. During 1999-2000 more than 5 lakh telephone instruments were allotted to various telecom circles for replacement.

Absence of telecom services in rural areas

4610. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the absence of telecom services in large number of rural areas in the country;

(b) whether Government have identified these villages;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether any time bound action plan have been proposed to be framed to provide effective telephone services in these villages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of 607,491 villages in the country, 374,605 villages, *i.e.* 61.7% have been provided with public telephone facilities till 31st March, 2000. Remaining 232,886 villages are left to be covered. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(d) and (e) These 232,886 villages are proposed to be provided with telecom facilities progressively by March 2002. Department of Telecom. Services plans to cover 177,038 villages. 55,848 villages are to be covered by Private Fixed Service Providers.

Statement

Status of VPTs as on 1st April, 2000

SI. No.	Circles	Total No. of Villages	Villages with VPTs as on 31.3.2000	Villages left uncovered as on 1.4.2000
	4			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	282	274	8
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	23379	6081
3.	Assam	22224	14181	8043
4.	Bihar	79208	24923	54285
5.	Gujarat	18125	13923	4202
6.	Haryana	6850	6807	43
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	10364	6633
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	3793	2971
9.	Karnataka	27066	25801	1265
10.	Kerala	1530	1530	0

11. Madhya Pradesh	71526	46498	25028
12. Maharashtra	42060	31170	10890
13. Goa	407	371	36
14. Arunachal Pradesh	3599	596	3003
15. Manipur	2394	684	1710
16. Meghalaya	5629	1186	4443
17. Mizoram	770	619	151
18. Nagaland	1192	595	597
19. Tripura	862	656	206
20. Orissa	46989	22928	24061
21. Punjab	12687	12123	564
22. Rajasthan	38634	23727	14907
23. Tamil Nadu	17991	17845	146
24. Uttar Pradesb (E)	75698	46492	29206
25. Uttar Pradesh (W)	39551	23531	16020
26. West Bengal	37910	19734	18176
27. Sikkim	427	263	164
28. Calcutta	468	421	47
29. Delhi	191	191	0
TOTAL:	607491	374605	232886

Internet facility for STD/ISD Booths

†4611. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to states:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to provide Internet facility for STD/ISD booths;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.